

IN CUBA WITH DR. GUNDLACH.

BY CHARLES B. CORY.

DURING the past winter the writer spent several weeks on the Island of Cuba in company with the well-known naturalist, Dr. John Gundlach, who, although he is nearly eighty-two years old, still continues his investigations with the enthusiasm and energy of a young man. A tramp of several miles is thought little of by the old Doctor, and I have seen him hunting for shells during a hard rain shower with the utmost unconcern as to the consequences of a good wetting.

We passed a number of days collecting birds in the vicinity of Havana, sometimes crossing the bay and taking the train as far as Cohimara. Although birds were abundant, we found only the more common species.

Every morning we visited the markets where at times many birds are brought in and offered for sale by the native hunters. There are two good markets in Havana, and any one wishing to procure birds for specimens should visit them at daybreak, as the markets open at about two or three o'clock in the morning and many of the best things are sold as soon as they are brought in by the hunters. Some mornings we found quite a variety of birds, while on others there were only a few Pigeons and one or two Quails to be had. Woodpeckers, Hawks and White Ibises, the latter with the beak and legs cut off, were often seen hanging with bunches of Doves and Meadowlarks.

The Pigeons, Doves and Quails are generally sold alive, being sent to the market in cages. The Blue-headed Dove (*Starnanas cyanocephala*) is considered the best, and they sell readily for \$2.00 in paper money (equal to about 90 cents of our silver) per pair. At the bird stalls we often observed two species of Cuban mammals, *Capromys fournieri* and *Capromys prehensilis*; the flesh of both of these is much esteemed by the people, the larger species being considered the better. During our visits to the markets we saw the following species of birds offered for sale at different times.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ <i>Aix sponsa</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Columba leucocephala</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Nomonyx dominicus</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Zenaidura macroura</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Dendrocygna arborea</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Columbigallina passerina</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Guara alba</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Sturnænas cyanocephala</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Ardea occidentalis</i> Aud. (alive). | ✓ <i>Accipiter gundlachi</i> Lawr. |
| ✓ <i>Rallus elegans</i> Aud. | ✓ <i>Strix pratineola furcata</i> (Temm.). |
| ✓ <i>Gallinula galeata</i> (Licht.). | ✓ <i>Crotophaga ani</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Jacana spinosa</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Centurus superciliaris</i> (Temm.). |
| ✓ <i>Numida meleagris</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Sturnella hippocrepis</i> Wagl. |
| ✓ <i>Colinus cubanensis</i> (Gould). | ✓ <i>Mimocichla rubripes</i> (Temm.). |

When not collecting, we passed most of our time with Dr. Gundlach at the Museum, studying his fine collection which he has deposited in the Havana Institute. The collections of Cuban birds, mammals, insects and land shells are nearly complete, and are the result of fifty-three years' collecting on the Island by Dr. Gundlach, almost everything in the collections having been procured and prepared by himself.

From Havana we went to San Diego de los Baños, a little town situated at the foot of the mountains in western Cuba. To reach there one has to go some five hours by rail to Passo Real, and from there is driven about twelve miles to the foot of the mountains to the quaint little town of San Diego de los Baños. At this place we found birds abundant, especially the Cuban Trogon, but only comparatively common species were procured. The birds actually taken were as follows, although we saw many other species which we did not kill, and which are therefore not included in this list.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ✓ <i>Ardea carulea</i> Linn. | ✓ <i>Colaptes chrysocaulus</i> Gundl. |
| ✓ <i>Ardea virescens</i> Linn. | ✓ <i>Cypselus phœnicobius</i> Gosse. |
| ✓ <i>Jacana spinosa</i> Linn. | ✓ <i>Sporadinus riccordii</i> (Gerv.). |
| ✓ <i>Ægialitis vocifera</i> Linn. | ✓ <i>Tyrannus magnirostris</i> D'Orb. |
| ✓ <i>Zenaidura macroura</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Pitangus candifasciatus</i> (D'Orb.). |
| ✓ <i>Columbigallina passerina</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Myiarchus sagræ</i> Gundl. |
| ✓ <i>Cathartes aura</i> (Linn.). | ✓ <i>Blacicus caribæus</i> (D'Orb.). |
| ✓ <i>Falco sparverio</i> Vig. | ✓ <i>Agelaius humeralis</i> (Vig.). |
| ✓ <i>Glaucopteryx siju</i> (D'Orb.). | ✓ <i>Sturnella hippocrepis</i> Wagl. |
| ✓ <i>Crotophaga ani</i> Linn. | ✓ <i>Icterus hypomelas</i> Bonap. |
| ✓ <i>Saurothera merlini</i> D'Orb. | ✓ <i>Quiscalus gundlachi</i> Cass. |
| ✓ <i>Priotelus temnurus</i> (Temm.). | ✓ <i>Melophyrhæ nigra</i> (Linn.). |
| ✓ <i>Todus multicolor</i> Gould. | ✓ <i>Euethia lepida</i> (Jacq.). |
| ✓ <i>Xiphidiopicus percussus</i> (Temm.). | ✓ <i>Euethia canora</i> (Gmel.). |
| ✓ <i>Centurus superciliaris</i> (Temm.). | ✓ <i>Spindalis pretri</i> (Less.). |

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ <i>Vireo gundlachi</i> <i>Lemb.</i> | ✓ <i>Dendroica discolor</i> (<i>Vieill.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Mniotilta varia</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). | ✓ <i>Sciurus aurocapillus</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Compothlypis americana</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). | ✓ <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Dendroica dominica</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). | ✓ <i>Teretistris fernandinae</i> (<i>Lemb.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> (<i>Gmel.</i>). | ✓ <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Dendroica palmarum</i> (<i>Gmel.</i>). | ✓ <i>Poliophtila cærulea</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). |
| ✓ <i>Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea</i> | ✓ <i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i> (<i>Linn.</i>). |
| <i>Ridgw.</i> | ✓ <i>Mimocichla rubripes</i> (<i>Temm.</i>). |

While in Havana a bird was brought to me alive in a cage, which was claimed to have been caught by some boys about sixteen miles out in the country. It proved to be a rather peculiarly marked specimen of *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, three or four of the outer rectrices being white on one side and not on the other.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF JAMAICA, WEST INDIES.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

II. A LIST OF THE BIRDS RECORDED FROM THE ISLAND. WITH ANNOTATIONS.*

(Continued from p. 129.)

124. *Crotophaga ani* *Linn.* ANI; SAVANNA BLACKBIRD; TICK-BIRD.—Common and very generally distributed in the region below one thousand feet above sea level. Above that altitude some occur, though the birds are not nearly so abundant. At Constant Springs, in the vicinity of Kingston, I saw many daily during two weeks stay at that point. I obtained a few individuals at Stony Hill, where the species was only seen a few times during the month I spent at that locality. At Boston and on the entire north side of the island at and near sea level the species was one of the most abundant and conspicuous. At Boston on December 25, 1890, I took a young bird (No. 9824, coll. W. E. D. S.), just able to fly, that was still in company with its parents and was being fed by them.

125. *Saurothera vetula*. (*Linn.*). RAIN-BIRD.—This bird seems, as far as I am aware, of rather rare occurrence. I met with only three individuals

* Mr. Taylor's valuable notes, though promised, have not come to hand for this instalment of this paper, but the author hopes to include them in the October or the January part, concluding this series of observations.